

A SOCIAL HISTORY OF ENGLAND,
1500–1750

The rise of social history has had a transforming influence on the history of early modern England. It has broadened the historical agenda to include many previously little-studied, or wholly neglected, dimensions of the English past. It has also provided a fuller context for understanding more established themes in the political, religious, economic and intellectual histories of the period. This volume serves two main purposes. Firstly it summarises, in an accessible way, the principal findings of forty years of research on English society in this period, providing a comprehensive overview of social and cultural change in an era vital to the development of English social identities. Secondly, the chapters, by leading experts, also stimulate fresh thinking by not only taking stock of current knowledge, but extending it, identifying problems, proposing fresh interpretations and pointing to unexplored possibilities. It will be essential reading for students, teachers and general readers.

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This book is dedicated to the memory of Christopher W. Brooks, an outstanding historian of this period and a friend to many of us.

Abbreviations

<i>AHR</i>	<i>American Historical Review</i>
BL	British Library
<i>C&C</i>	<i>Continuity and Change</i>
DUL	Durham University Library
<i>EcHR</i>	<i>Economic History Review</i>
EEBO	Early English Books Online
<i>EHR</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>
<i>HJ</i>	<i>The Historical Journal</i>
<i>HWJ</i>	<i>History Workshop Journal</i>
<i>IRSH</i>	<i>International Review of Social History</i>
<i>JBS</i>	<i>Journal of British Studies</i>
<i>JFH</i>	<i>Journal of Family History</i>
<i>JMH</i>	<i>Journal of Modern History</i>
NRO	Norfolk Record Office
<i>ODNB</i>	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i>
<i>P&P</i>	<i>Past & Present</i>
RO	Record Office
<i>SH</i>	<i>Social History</i>
TNA	The National Archives, Kew
<i>TRHS</i>	<i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i>